

Foreword

The conference *Knowledge Society – Challenges to Management: Globalisation, Regionalism and the EU Enlargement Process* took place on November 20–22, 2003, in Portorož, Slovenia.

The conference was organised by the Faculty of Management, University of Primorska. This University was established in 2003 as the third university in Slovenia. Its members are 3 faculties, 2 colleges and 2 research institutes. It has approx. 4500 students and 360 teaching staff. The Faculty of Management is the largest faculty within the University of Primorska. It has around 2000 graduate and postgraduate students and 60 teaching staff. Currently, it runs 3 undergraduate and postgraduate educational programmes, while 3 new undergraduate and postgraduate programmes are in the process of accreditation. It has also the Institute for Management Research. Its research and educational programmes are oriented towards various aspects of Management.

The Faculty of management has a lot of experience in the field of Management and Education: it runs the postgraduate programme Management in Education, it has well-established working relations with Manchester Metropolitan University, and is the leading institution in the international Master programme for South-East Europe in Management in Education, financed by the Higher Education Support Programme. Our openness toward the world also led us to the idea to organise this conference.

The EU has adopted a strategy for economic growth and social cohesion, called the ‘Lisbon strategy’ aimed at making the EU the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world. Besides, the conference also discussed issues related to the enlargement of the EU, which is a complex and dynamic process that comprises 13 countries, 10 of which will be joining the EU in 2004. The whole process of accession raises a number of issues and questions about the future of education, research and employment policy in the New Europe.

The aims of the conference were to discuss current legal and other issues related to the legal framework for education and research within the

European Union, to discuss creation and use of knowledge in Europe and its interconnectedness with the labour market after the admission of new EU member states, to present case studies and analyses from different national contexts that raise questions about management of organisations and their focus on investments into knowledge, and to provoke and indicate changes to the integration process in education and research areas.

Altogether, 40 participants were present from 7 states: Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Slovenia, The Netherlands, and United Kingdom; 30 papers were presented and 18 papers were, after peer review process, considered for publication in these conference proceedings.

8 The richness of knowledge, research and some experiences are presented in this booklet. We know that our work has not been completed by this conference – we are already planning the second international conference in Portorož in 2004. We see conferences as one way to build knowledge but also to share experiences, to network and to open space to new, different and challenging ideas. Therefore, we will make the conference in Portorož a traditional event, which is challenging both for the participants and also for the organisers.

See you, then, in 2004 in Portorož.

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